

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 3 and 4 are now present in the application. The abstract and claims 3 and 4 have been amended. Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. Claims 3 and 4 independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

In this Reply, allowable claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of their base claim 1 and the intervening claim(s). Accordingly, it is believed that claims 3 and 4 are in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on November 30, 2005 and February 27, 2006, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 forms filed therewith.

Drawings

Applicants thank the Examiner for accepting the formal drawings of the instant application.

Specification Objections

The abstract has been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 has been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morimoto, JP 2003095215. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morimoto, JP 2001019260. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morimoto, JP 2000118511. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morimoto '260 in view of Kitai, U.S. Patent No. 4,072,060. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

Without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, as the Examiner will note, independent claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state of the art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

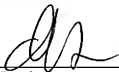
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Cheng-Kang (Greg) Hsu, Registration No. 61,007 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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